

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 9 are amended hereby. No claims are canceled or added. Accordingly, after entry of this amendment, claims 1-9 will remain pending.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Reiss et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0014145). The Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection and, therefore, respectfully traverses same.


Claims 1-9 are patentable distinguishable from Reiss et al. because they now recite a method of operating a semiconductor processing system combining a number of features including, for example, determining first and second states for a wafer via optical digital profiling. Simply, since Reiss et al. does not discuss optical digital profiling, the reference cannot be said to describe each and every feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Reiss et al. cannot be relied upon to anticipate claims 1-9.

Moreover, there is nothing in Reiss et al. to suggest that the combination as now recited by claims 1-9 would be obvious. As mentioned, Reiss et al. does not discuss, among other features, determining first and second states for a wafer via optical digital profiling. None of the other references cited by the Examiner supply this missing teaching. Accordingly, neither Reiss et al. alone nor the combination of any of the cited references may be combined properly to render claims 1-9 obvious.

Each of the rejections having been addressed, the Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are now in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this paper that are not otherwise accounted for, please charge our Deposit Account No. 03-3975 and refer to Order No. 071469/0304316.

Respectfully submitted,
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